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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shigeru FUKUDA

Group Art Unit: 1752

Application No.: 10/671,699

Examiner: R. Schilling

Filed: September 29, 2003

Docket No.: 117342

For: TRANSFER MEMBER AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF, AND
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS USING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

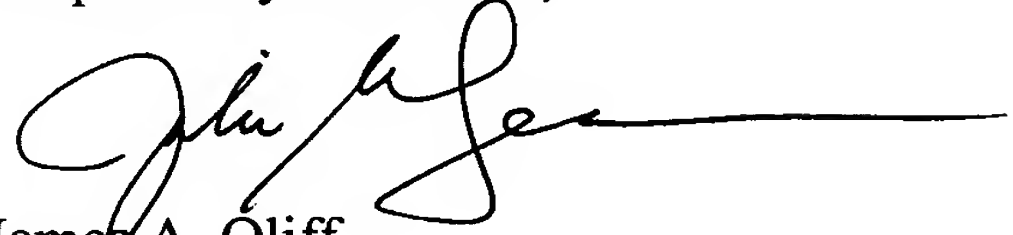
Sir:

In reply to the October 6, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-4, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JMS/brc

Date: November 8, 2004

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